

REMARKS

Receipt is acknowledged of the Office Action of April 27, 2006. Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the application, Claims 15 and 16 having been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-14 have been rejected in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner with respect to the rejected Claims and request reconsideration of the rejection, as explained in more detail below.

Claims 1, 3-5, 8 and 10-12 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0161558 ("Kishi"). Claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 13 and 14 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the same Kishi reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,368,397 ("Freiwald"). Applicants amended independent Claims 1 and 8 to more particularly claim the invention disclosed in the present Application.

As claimed in current independent Claims 1 and 8, the present invention is a hydrodynamic bearing system for use in spindle motors. The hydrodynamic bearing system includes a shaft, a bearing sleeve, and a shield enclosing the bearing sleeve. The bearing sleeve has an inner cylindrical bore, and the shaft is inserted into this inner cylindrical bore. A bearing gap filled with lubricating oil is formed between the shaft and the bearing sleeve. The bearing sleeve further includes a recess having a pointed edge with an acute angle. The shield is secured to the bearing sleeve by being pressed against this pointed edge of the recess.

Contrary to the claimed invention, cited prior art references do not show a bearing sleeve recess having a pointed edge with an acute angle. Thus, this limitation of Claims 1 and 8

is not taught, suggested or disclosed in the prior art of record. Therefore, Claims 1 and 8 are believed to be patentable over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2-7 and 9-14 are believed to define patentable subject matter in view of their dependency upon allowable Claims 1 and 8 and, further, on their own merits.

Claims 1-14 were rejected in the Office Action as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that the term “sharp edge” of Claims 1, 2, 8, and 9 was indefinite. Applicants replaced the limitation “sharp edge” with limitation “pointed edge with an acute angle.” Applicants believe that the new limitation is definite.

Claims 5 and 12 were rejected in the Office Action because the limitation “said end surface” lacked an antecedent basis. Applicants amended Claims 5 and 12 to correct this informality.

Claims 7 and 14 were rejected in the Office Action because the Examiner believes that the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for a “metal cut seal.” Applicants respectfully disagree and note that Claims 7 and 14 themselves provide the definition for the term “metal cut seal.” Specifically, as recited in Claims 7 and 14, a “metal cut seal” is formed by the combination of the shield, the ring and the pointed edge having the acute angle. Applicants believe that the language of Claims 7 and 14 provides adequate enablement for the term “metal cut seal.” However, if the Examiner continues to disagree, a call to the undersigned attorney will be appreciated.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the drawings, attached please find a set of corrected drawing sheets. Applicants believe that the attached drawings are responsive to all Examiner's objections. No new matter has been added.

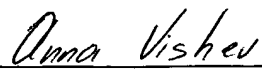
In response to the provisional double patenting rejection, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer.

Based on the above, Applicants believe that Claims 1-14 are now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned counsel at the number noted below if it will advance the prosecution of this application, or with any suggestion to resolve any condition that would impede allowance. In the event that any extension of time is required, Applicant petitions for that extension of time required to make this response timely. Kindly charge any additional fee, or credit any surplus, to Deposit Account No. 50-0675, Order No. 057517-45.

Respectfully submitted,

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